



2023 LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

“The Liberty Index”



The Republican Liberty Caucus is a national grassroots organization working to advance the principles of individual rights, limited government, free markets, and personal freedom and responsibility.

For more than twenty years the Republican Liberty Caucus (RLC) has been the strongest, most consistent voice for these principles within the Republican Party. Many Republicans talk about these principles, but the RLC has taken the lead in promoting Liberty candidates and advocating for Liberty legislation. We believe that less government means more liberty and we work through state and local chapters, and with our member activists all over the country to oppose government excess and demand accountability to the American people and the Constitution.

The Republican Liberty Caucus of Florida (RLCFL) believes in educating the voters of Florida on the legislative process and we feel it is important that you know how legislators voted on key issues of liberty. We put together a cross-section of legislation to provide you with the most comprehensive look into how you might evaluate your representation in Tallahassee. Holding our elected officials accountable is our primary responsibility as citizens. We hope that you will use this scorecard as a tool to do exactly that.

Introduction

Personal Liberty, Limited Government, Free Markets! These are the principles that guide us in establishing our “Legislative Agenda” of bills that we either support or oppose. The Republican Liberty Caucus of Florida (RLCFL) has always been active in advocating for liberty in the Florida legislature. Early in the session we hosted our “Liberty Lobby Days” event where members from all over the state came to Tallahassee to meet with legislators to promote our legislative agenda. This year’s event was our most successful to date with more than seventy of our members from all corners of Florida descending on Tallahassee to promote our agenda!



RLC of Florida Lobby Days 2023

Legislators know where we stand on liberty issues like limited government, fiscal conservatism, tax cuts, deregulation, parental rights, and gun rights. We expect them to vote accordingly. This is where our legislative scorecard comes into play. As the conscience of the Republican Party, holding Republican legislators accountable for their votes is a top priority. As part of our mission, we have a candidate endorsement process to identify which candidates are dedicated to principles of personal liberty, limited government, and individual freedom. Our legislative scorecard is an important indicator as we decide on which candidates to support.

We have completed our analysis of the 2023 legislative session. The results are included in our legislative scorecard which includes a letter grade for every republican member of the Florida legislature. Our grading system is tough but fair. Legislators earn the score they receive based only on how they voted on the twenty liberty bills we selected for the scorecard. Some are pro liberty. Some are anti liberty.

We are confident that you will find our scorecard, “The Liberty Index,” to be a useful tool in evaluating the performance of your elected Representatives and Senators in Tallahassee. Are they representing you, or are they representing establishment special interests and lobbyists contributing millions to their campaign war chests? For additional information about the Republican Liberty Caucus of Florida, including finding a local chapter near you, please visit our website at rlcfl.org.

Thank You!

In Liberty!

Bob White
Chairman, Republican Liberty Caucus of Florida

Criteria for Choosing Legislation

Legislation was selected for this scorecard based on the principles of limited government and individual liberty. Legislation that contained unnecessary spending, corporate welfare, growth of government bureaucracy or unequal enforcement of the law was deemed negative legislation. Positive legislation included bills that protected the right to defend oneself, private property rights, promoted free markets and allowing for private sector solutions. Legislation that did not change policy in any way, regardless of the public perception of the legislation, was not included. We found several pieces of legislation that appeared to be either positive or negative on the surface. However, after in-depth analysis and comparison to current policy or other extenuating circumstances, the legislation had a negligible potential effect and, in some cases, we felt the legislation was addressing the wrong issue.

Methodology

Three hundred and fifty-six bills were passed in the 2023 legislative session. All of these bills were reviewed for content only. We selected twenty pieces of legislation that passed both chambers. Scores are based on the final floor vote in each for each bill.

The twenty pieces of legislation were either OPPOSED or SUPPORTED by the Republican Liberty Caucus of Florida. Points were assigned accordingly. Legislators received five-points for voting in agreement with our caucus position and zero points for voting contrary to our caucus position. Zero-point votes are designated on the scorecard as either BV (Bad Vote) or DNV (Did Not Vote).

In addition, a total of three additional bills that **did not** pass were chosen for bonus points. These bills address a priority of the RLCFL. For each of these bills, co-sponsors earned an additional five points, and sponsors of these bills earned ten additional points for their willingness to champion RLCFL priority bills.

The letter score range on the scorecard is based on increments of five points. Members who scored 90-100 points earned an A. 80-85 received a B. 70-75 received a C. 60-65 received a D, and anything below a 60 received an F grade. A plus (+) or minus (-) was assigned depending on where the score fell in the grade range.

List of Scorecard Bills

1. [HB 1](#) Education. **SUPPORT**
2. [HB 3](#) Government and Corporate Activism; ESG. **SUPPORT**
3. [HB 5](#) Economic Programs. **SUPPORT**
4. [HJR 31](#) Partisan Elections for Members of District School Boards. **SUPPORT**
5. [SB 214](#) Sales of Firearms and Ammunition. **SUPPORT**
6. [SB 254](#) Treatments for Sex Reassignment. **SUPPORT**
7. [SB 256](#) Employee Organizations Representing Public Employees. **SUPPORT**
8. [SB 264](#) Interests of Foreign Countries. **SUPPORT**
9. [SB 266](#) Higher Education. **SUPPORT**
10. [SB 300](#) Pregnancy and Parenting Support. **SUPPORT**
11. [SB 450](#) Death Penalty. **OPPOSE**
12. [HB 477](#) Term Limits for District School Board Members. **SUPPORT**
13. [HB 543](#) Public Safety. **OPPOSE**
14. [HB 1069](#) Education. **SUPPORT**
15. [SB 1580](#) Protections of Medical Conscience. **SUPPORT**
16. [SB 1616](#) Public Records/Transportation and Protective Services. **OPPOSE**
17. [SB 1718](#) Unlawful Immigration. **SUPPORT**
18. [SB 2500](#) Appropriations. **OPPOSE**
19. [SB 7014](#) Juvenile Justice. **SUPPORT**
20. [SB 7050](#) Elections. **OPPOSE**

Bonus Point Bills (not included in the list of twenty bills shown on the scorecard)

1. [HB 1187](#) / [SB 1216](#) Campaign Finance. **SUPPORT**
2. [HB 1543](#) Minimum Age for Firearm Purchase or Transfer. **SUPPORT**
3. [HB 1487](#) / [SB 1618](#) Declarations of a Public Health Emergency. **SUPPORT**



2023 Champion of Liberty

No legislators in either chamber achieved this status which requires an A+ grade or higher.

Honorable Mention



Rep. Mike Beltran (R) D-27
Score: 90
Grade: A-



Rep. Joel Rudman (R) D-3
Score: 90
Grade: A-



Rep. Tyler Sirois (R) D-31
Score: 90
Grade: A-



SCORECARD - REPUBLICAN House Votes

Representative	1	3	5	31	214	254	256	264	266	300	450	477	543	1069	1580	1616	1718	2500	7014	7050	Raw Score	Bonus Points*	Total Score	Letter Grade	
Abbott*	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75	5	80	B-	
Altman	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75		75	C	
Alvarez	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75		75	C	
Amesty	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75		75	C	
Anderson*	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75	5	80	B-	
Andrade*	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75	5	80	B-	
Baker	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75		75	C	
Bankson*	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75	5	80	B-	
Barnaby*	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75	5	80	B-	
Basabe	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	DNV	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	70		70	C-	
Bell	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75		75	C	
Beltran*	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	80	10	90	A-	
Berfield	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75		75	C	
Black*	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75	5	80	B-	
Borrero	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75		75	C	
Botana	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75		75	C	
Brackett*	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75	5	80	B-	
Branan*	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	70	5	75	C	
Buchanan	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75		75	C	
Busatta Cabrera	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75		75	C	
Canady	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75		75	C	
Caruso	5	5	5	5	5	5	DNV	5	5	BV	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	DNV	65		65	D	
Chaney	5	DNV	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	DNV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	70		70	C-	
Clemons	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75		75	C	
Duggan	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75		75	C	
Esposito*	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75	5	80	B-	
Fabricio	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75		75	C	
Fernandez-Barquin	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75		75	C	
Fine*	5	5	5	5	5	5	DNV	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	DNV	70	5	75	C	
Garcia	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75		75	C	
Garrison	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75		75	C	
Giallombardo	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75		75	C	
Gonzalez Pittman	5	5	5	5	5	5	DNV	5	5	BV	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	65		65	D	
Gossett-Seidman	5	5	5	5	5	5	DNV	5	5	BV	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	65		65	D	
Grant	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75		75	C	
Gregory*	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75	5	80	B-	
Griffitts	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75		75	C	
Hawkins	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75		75	C	
Holcomb*	5	5	DNV	5	5	DNV	5	DNV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	DNV	5	BV	60	5	65	D	
Jacques*	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75	5	80	B-	
Killebrew	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	DNV	BV	BV	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	60		60	D-	
Koster	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	70		70	C-
LaMarca	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	70		70	C-
Leek*	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75	5	80	B-	
Lopez, V	5	5	5	5	5	5	DNV	5	5	BV	BV	5	5	5	5	BV	BV	BV	5	BV	65		65	D	
Maggard	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75		75	C	
Maney	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75		75	C	
Massullo*	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75	5	80	B-	
McClain	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75		75	C	
McClure	5	5	5	DNV	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	DNV	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	65		65	D	
McFarland	5	5	5	5	5	5	DNV	5	5	DNV	DNV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	DNV	65		65	D	
Melo*	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75	5	80	B-	
Michael	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75		75	C	
Mooney	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	5	DNV	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	65		65	D	
Overdorf*	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75	5	80	B-	
Payne*	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75	10	85	B	
Perez	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75		75	C	
Persons-Mulicka	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75		75	C	
Plakon*	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75	5	80	B-	
Plasencia	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	70		70	C-	
Porras	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75		75	C	
Renner	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75		75	C	
Rizo	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75		75	C	
Roach*	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75	5	80	B-	
Robinson, W	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75		75	C	
Rommel*	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75	5	80	B-	
Roth*	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	5	BV	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	65	5	70	C-	
Rudman*	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75	15	90	A-	
Salzman*	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	70	5	75	C	
Shoaf	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75		75	C	
Sirois*	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75	15	90	A-	
Smith	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	70		70	C-	
Snyder	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75		75	C	
Stark	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	DNV	BV	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	70		70	C-	
Steele	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75		75	C	
Stevenson	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	DNV	DNV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	DNV	70		70	C-
Temple	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75		75	C	
Tomkow	5	5	5																						

SCORECARD - REPUBLICIAN Senate Votes																								
Senator	1	3	5	31	214	254	256	264	266	300	450	477	543	1069	1580	1616	1718	2500	7014	7050	Raw Score	Bonus Points*	Total Score	Letter Grade
Albritton	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75		75	C
Avila	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75		75	C
Baxley	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75		75	C
Boyd	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75		75	C
Bradley	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	65		65	D
Brodeur	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75		75	C
Broxson	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75		75	C
Burgess	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75		75	C
Burton	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75		75	C
Calatayud	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	70		70	C-
Collins	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75		75	C
DiCeglie	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75		75	C
Garcia	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	80		80	B-
Grall	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	80		80	B-
Gruters	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	70		70	C-
Harrell	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	70		70	C-
Hooper	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	70		70	C-
Hutson	5	5	DNV	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	70		70	C-
Ingoglia*	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75	10	85	B
Martin	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75		75	C
Mayfield	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75		75	C
Passidomo	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75		75	C
Perry	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75		75	C
Rodriguez	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75		75	C
Simon	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	70		70	C-
Trumbull	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75		75	C
Wright	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75		75	C
Yarborough*	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	5	BV	5	BV	5	BV	75	10	85	B

*Legislator received bonus points as co-sponsor (five points) and/or as sponsor (ten points) of any of three RLCFL priority bills.

2023 RLCFL Scorecard Bill Summary

1. HB 1 Education. SUPPORT

Rep. Tuck / Sen. Simon. This bill would expand the Florida Family Empowerment Scholarship so that any student eligible to enroll in a public school could be in line for a voucher to attend a private school.

HB 1 Passed the House and Senate

2. HB 3 Government and Corporate Activism. SUPPORT

Rep. Rommel / Sen. Grall. This bill is comprehensive legislation to protect Floridians from the “woke” environmental, social, and corporate governance (ESG) movement that continues to proliferate throughout the financial sector. ESG is a direct threat to the American economy and individual economic freedom. This attempt by the corporate elite to discriminate against those who do not follow a particular ideological agenda will be outlawed in Florida with the passage of this bill.

HB 3 passed the House and Senate

3. HB 5 Economic Programs. SUPPORT

Rep. Esposito. This bill eliminates Enterprise Florida, the public-private partnership with the state for economic development. The taxpayer funded organization has a poor record for economic development, instead is a pay-to-play scheme for winning favorable treatment and its repeated practice of picking winners and losers in the marketplace.

HB 5 passed the House and Senate.

4. HJR 31 Partisan Elections for Members of District School Boards. SUPPORT

Rep. Roach / Sen. Gruters. Partisan Elections for Members of District School Boards. These bills would require that elections for school board members be partisan, currently, the Florida constitution requires school board elections to be non-partisan. HJR 31 will be placed on the next general election ballot as a proposed state constitutional amendment and would require sixty percent of voters to pass.

HJR 31 passed the House and Senate.

5. SB 214 Sales of Firearms and Ammunition. SUPPORT

Rep. Snyder / Sen. Burgess. This bill will stop the collection of financial data on firearm and ammo purchases and impose fines on credit card companies that collect data on those purchases. Credit card companies like Visa, Mastercard, and American Express say they plan on categorizing gun shop sales, which were

considered general merchandise. Individual codes used to identify firearm purchases open a backdoor to an unofficial gun registry.

SB 214 Passed the House and Senate.

6. SB 254 by Sen. Yarborough Treatments for Sex Reassignment. SUPPORT

Rep. Fine / Sen. Yarborough. This bill will make it illegal for minors under the age of 18 to receive gender affirming care, such as hormone replacement therapies and puberty blockers.

SB 254 passed the House and Senate.

7. SB 256 Employee Organizations Representing Public Employees. SUPPORT

Rep. Black / Sen. Ingoglia. This bill will prevent public-employee union members from having dues deducted from their paychecks. Members would have to separately pay dues. Under these bills membership in a labor union will not be required as a condition of employment, and union membership and payment of union dues and assessments would be voluntary.

SB 256 passed the House and Senate.

8. SB 264 Interests of Foreign Countries. SUPPORT

Rep. Borrero, Rep. Waldron / Sen. Collins. This bill will prohibit governments, citizens, and businesses from foreign countries of concern from acquiring agricultural land in the state. Also, it will prohibit the sale of property located within 10 miles of military bases and other critical infrastructure — seaports, airports, power plants and water treatment facilities — to interests tied to the Chinese government or other foreign countries of concern. The bills also ban companies tied to countries of concern from doing business with Florida's government. The bills list the following countries of concern, China, Iran, Russia, Venezuela, Syria, Cuba, and North Korea.

SB 264 passed the House and Senate.

9. SB 266 Higher Education. SUPPORT

Rep. Andrade / Sen. Grall. This bill will require the State Board of Education and state university system's Board of Governors to appoint faculty committees that would review general-education core courses. General education core courses may not distort significant historical events or include a curriculum that teaches identity politics ... or is based on theories that systemic racism, sexism, oppression, and privilege are inherent in the institutions of the United States and were created to maintain social, political, and economic inequities.

SB 266 passed the House and Senate and will be sent to the Governor.

10. SB 300 Pregnancy and Parenting Support. SUPPORT

Rep. Persons-Mulicka / Sen. Grall. This bill will prohibit abortions after six weeks of pregnancy. The bill includes exceptions for rape or incest up to 15 weeks of pregnancy. To qualify, a person must have a copy of a restraining order, police report, medical record, or other court order or documentation proving the pregnancy was a result of rape or incest. The legislation would also bar the use of state funds to help a pregnant person leave the state to obtain an abortion.

SB 300 Passed the House and Senate.

11. SB 450 Death Penalty. OPPOSE

Rep. Jacques / Sen. Ingoglia. This bill will require only 8 jurors out of 12 to recommend the death penalty. Current law requires a unanimous jury vote to impose the death penalty.

Florida is poised to become the state with the nation's lowest threshold for juries to recommend death sentences. The state legislature passed HB 450 which allows a judge to impose death if at least eight out of twelve jurors agree. Most states, including Florida currently, have required a unanimous jury verdict to recommend death. Florida has the highest number of exonerations from death row in the nation, at thirty. There should be a high threshold for putting someone to death. Innocent people are too often sentenced to death. Once someone is executed, there is no do-over. Statistics show that it costs the taxpayers significantly more for those sentenced to the death penalty than life in prison because of the appeals process.

SB 450 Passed the House and Senate

12. HB 477 Term Limits for District School Board Members. SUPPORT

Rep. Rizo. Lawmakers last year passed a measure that included 12-year term limits for school board members. The RLCFL supports 8-year term limits for all elected offices in Florida and we opposed the 12-year Term Limits language last session. HB 477 corrects the legislature's mistake last session and would change it to 8-year term limits for members of School Boards.

HB 477 Passed the House and Senate.

13. HB 543 Public Safety. OPPOSE

Rep. Brannan / Sen. Collins. This bill would eliminate the requirement to have a concealed weapons permit to carry a concealed firearm. Legislators are calling this bill "Constitutional Carry". This is a permit less concealed carry bill. That is all it is. It is NOT a Constitutional Carry bill. It does not allow open carry and it does not address the long-standing prohibition against carrying on a college or university campus. It does not address the Unconstitutional Red Flag statute passed as part of the Marjorie Stoneman Douglas bill. Nor does it reinstate the Constitutional right of 18-, 19- and 20-year-old adult Floridians to be able to purchase a firearm from a licensed dealer, which was also abridged by the passage of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas bill in 2018.

This bill falls far short of a true "Constitutional Carry" bill which is very disappointing, especially with a supermajority of Republicans in both chambers as well as a popular Republican Governor. If we accept this watered-down bill now, we will likely never see a true "Constitutional Carry" law. Furthermore, most if not all concealed carry permit holders will continue to renew these permits for reciprocity purposes, so the actual net effect of the bill is negligible.

HB 543 Passed the House and Senate.

14. HB 1069 Education. SUPPORT

Rep. McClain / Sen. Yarborough. This bill forbids school staff and students to use "pronouns that do not correspond with a person's sex" and delays education on sexual orientation and gender identity until after eighth grade.

HB 1069 passed the House and Senate.

15. SB 1580 Protections of Medical Conscience. SUPPORT

Rep. Rudman / Sen. Trumbull. This bill would protect the rights of medical doctors, nurses, or other providers, as well as religious medical facilities, to practice their conscience convictions in their healthcare practices. No medical professional or entity could be forced to recommend, participate in, and provide non-emergency medical procedures and actions that would violate their sincerely held convictions and beliefs. For example, no doctor would be forced to perform an abortion, and no nurse would be demanded to participate in a "sex-reassignment" surgery, among other actions that could violate their rights of conscience.

This bill also provides protections to healthcare professionals from being penalized, reprimanded, or deprived of their licenses for exercising their freedom of speech by private medical certification boards.

SB 1580 Passed the House and Senate.

16. SB 1616 Public Records/Transportation and Protective Services. OPPOSE

Rep. Holcomb / Sen. Martin. This bill shields the travel records of the governor and other state leaders and would withhold from the public names of certain guests at the governor's mansion. SB 1616 would create a public records exemption for information held by law-enforcement agencies related to "security or transportation services" provided to the governor, the governor's immediate family, the lieutenant governor, Cabinet members, the House speaker, the Senate president, and the chief justice of the Florida Supreme Court. The exemption also would apply to other people if requested by the governor or other state leaders for security reasons.

The exemption would apply to trips already taken. The bill also would prevent disclosure of information related to mansion security operations, including information about screenings and clearances of people visiting the mansion on non-government issues.

If the Governor were not running for President, we find it highly unlikely that this bill would have ever been introduced. This might as well have been called "Ron DeSantis is running for President" and we do not want anyone to know where he is or how much time he is spending away from his responsibilities as Governor bill. Yet again, the legislative branch is at the beck and call of the Executive. While we are at it, why not add in

language to hide the activities of the Senate President and the House Speaker from public scrutiny. This sets a bad precedent.

SB 1616 Passed the House and Senate.

17. SB 1718 Immigration. SUPPORT

Rep. Michael / Sen. Ingoglia. This bill requires private employers with more than twenty-five employees to use the E-Verify system and removes the provision authorizing unauthorized immigrants to obtain a license to practice law.

SB 1718 passed the House and Senate.

18. SB 2500 Appropriations. OPPOSE

One of the core issues for the RLCFL is “limited government.” An ever-growing budget reflects an ever-growing size of government. Milton Friedman once said that “spending is taxation”.

The last year has seen stronger tax revenue collections coming into the Government, and with this windfall, the Legislature found ways to spend it.

This year's budget comes in at a record \$117 billion, five billion more than last year. The Florida House and Senate budget proposals came in at \$113 billion, but after the joint budget committee met to negotiate a final budget, the committee decided to spend another \$4 billion over their original proposals. The \$117 billion does not include more than \$6 billion appropriated in the "back of bill," technically appropriated for the current fiscal year so it does not count in the budget total. The money in the “back of the budget” contains a wish list of spending items not in the main part of this year's budget. This means they could spend \$123 billion.

With that extra money, the Legislature should have passed meaningful and permanent tax cuts. The Legislature passed only \$324.5 million in permanent sales tax cuts for things like diapers and \$1.2 billion in sales tax holidays, which means you have to purchase certain products approved by the government on certain days of the year selected by the government.

Instead, the legislature should conduct an exhaustive budget review process to find and eliminate duplicative programs, unnecessary programs, and wasteful spending practices.

The Legislature continues to expand government when tax revenues are plentiful. The problem is should we anticipate a future downturn in the economy, the Legislature will be forced to make drastic cuts or raise taxes like they did in 2009. Money held in reserves will evaporate quickly.

SB 2500 passed the House and Senate.

19. SB 7014 Juvenile Justice. SUPPORT

Rep. Jacques / Senate Appropriations. This bill establishes the “Florida Scholars Academy” within the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). If approved, it would offer educational opportunities for teenagers serving criminal sentences in a juvenile residential facility. The goal is for those serving time in a juvenile facility to have the education to become productive citizens after leaving the facility.

SB 7014 Passed the House and Senate.

20. SB 7050 Elections OPPOSE

Rep. McClure, Rep. Salzman / Sen. Hutson. SB 7050 was supposed to continue to address the many problems with our election system that can lead to fraudulent results. An effective election security bill should include; Making sure ONLY American Citizens vote; Controlling Vote by Mail by ensuring Mail-In Ballots are valid and true; Ability to count votes manually if a county chooses to do so.

SB 7050 does not adequately address these concerns and undermines previous election security reforms. Governor DeSantis should veto SB 7050 and call for a special session to pass meaningful election reforms. SB 7050 also amended provisions in Florida's resign to run law to make it possible to run for President without resigning your current elected position. This was clearly done for Ron DeSantis' benefit. Public policy of this magnitude should never be implemented for the political benefit of any individual regardless of how popular or powerful they may be.

SB 7050 passed the House and the Senate.

Bonus Point Bills (not included in the list of twenty bills shown on the scorecard)

1. HB 1187 / SB 1216 Campaign Finance. SUPPORT

Rep. Beltran / Sen. Ingoglia. These bills would have prohibited transfers of money between Political Committees (PC) and would bring a measure of transparency to campaign financing. Election law in Florida allows candidates and elected officials to open and operate a “political committee”. These political committees can accept unlimited contributions and spend unlimited amounts of money. This has made the traditional candidate campaign account with limits on contributions meaningless. Political Committees can make contributions to each other without having to divulge where the money came from originally. This amounts to the “legal laundering of campaign cash in Florida politics.

HB 1187 died in Ethics...

SB 1216 died in Ethics...

2. HB 1543 Minimum Age for Firearm Purchase or Transfer. SUPPORT

Rep. Payne / Rep. Sirois. This bill would have lowered the minimum age from 21 to 18 to buy rifles and other “long” guns, which would scrap a law passed after the 2018 mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland.

HB 1543 died in Rules

3. HB 1487 / SB 1618 Declarations of Public Health Emergency. SUPPORT

Rep. Rudman / Sen. Yarborough. Current Florida law allows the state Health Officer to order an individual to be examined, tested, vaccinated, treated, isolated, or quarantined during public health emergencies. HB 1487 would have prohibited mandated vaccinations and allow an individual to contest being examined, tested, vaccinated, treated, isolated, or quarantined during public health emergencies.

HB 1487 died in State Affairs

SB 1618 died in Health Policy

Thank you for taking the time to read our Liberty Index. We hope that you will find this helpful in evaluating the representation you received during the 2023 Florida legislative session.
